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THE CORN REFERENDUM—

#383



An Important Decision For Corn Producers

Corn growers themselves will determine the corn program which will be in effect in 1959 and later years.

On November 25, 1958, growers will vote in a referendum at local polling places in the 932 counties of the 1958 commercial corn area. It will be their opportunity to help make an important decision—and to assure that a decision is made which is broadly representative of corn producers' views.

The referendum choice is between two alternative programs, as offered by Congress in the Agricultural Act of 1958. They are designated as Program No. 1 (a new program, with price supports on all corn and without acreage allotments—and with support levels determined on a new basis), and Program No. 2 (essentially the same program which has been in effect in recent years).

The inside pages of this folder explain the alternative programs in more detail.

A majority of the farmers who vote in the referendum will determine whether Program No. 1 or Program No. 2 will be available after this year.

IT'S UP TO CORN FARMERS TO DECIDE NOVEMBER 25

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Program

No.

1

will be stated on your ballot as follows:

DISCONTINUANCE OF CORN ACREAGE ALLOTMENTS for the 1959 and subsequent crops and price support on corn as provided for in the Agricultural Act of 1958.

If a simple majority of the votes cast by producers favor this program, there will be a **new corn program** beginning in the 1959 crop year. The main features of this program will be:

- A. No acreage allotment controls on corn.
- B. Price—support available for all corn of eligible quality, at the same “national average” level. (If the new program is approved, price support for other feed grains will be mandatory at levels determined to be fair and reasonable in relation to the price support for corn, taking into consideration the relative feed value of the commodity and other factors.)
- C. National average price support at 90 percent of the average price for corn received by farmers for the 3 preceding years—but not less than 65 percent of the parity price.
- D. No designated commercial corn area.

(For 1959, it is estimated that the national average price support level under this provision would probably be about \$1.12 to \$1.15 per bushel for all corn.)

IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE TO A NEW CORN PROGRAM, VOTE FOR NO. 1

Program No. 2

will be stated on your ballot as follows:

CORN ACREAGE ALLOTMENTS as provided for in the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended, and price support on corn as provided for in the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended.

If a simple majority of the votes cast by producers favor this program, the **same type of program** which is now in effect will be continued. The main features of this program will be:

- A. A national corn acreage allotment each year, with the size of the allotment governed primarily by the corn supply. Individual allotments, as shares of the national total, for all corn farms in the commercial area.
- B. Price support available, in commercial areas, only for corn produced in compliance with farm acreage allotments. It is not planned to continue supports on corn not in compliance with acreage allotments.
- C. Price support within a range of 75 to 90 percent of parity, depending on the corn supply situation.
- D. Establishment of a commercial corn area each year.

(The national corn acreage allotment for 1958 was 38,800,000 acres. Because of heavy current corn supplies, the 1959 allotment would probably be about 33 million acres—down about 15 percent from this year.)

(For 1959, it is estimated that the national average level of price support available for corn produced in compliance with farm allotments would probably be about \$1.24 to \$1.27 per bushel.)

**IF YOU WANT TO KEEP THE SAME
CORN PROGRAM, VOTE FOR NO. 2**

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE CORN REFERENDUM

Q. What is the purpose of the corn referendum?

A. To determine the corn program which is to be available to farmers for 1959 and later years. The choice will be between the present program of acreage allotments and price supports, and a new program in which there would be no acreage allotments and price supports would be determined on a different basis.

Q. Who is eligible to vote?

A. In general, anyone who produced corn in the 1958 commercial corn area or had an interest in such a corn crop in 1958 is eligible to vote. In addition, a corn producer may vote in case he had a 1958 allotment but produced no corn; planted corn but did not harvest it; or placed his 1958 corn allotment in the Soil Bank.

Q. When will the referendum be held?

A. On Tuesday, November 25.

Q. Is a two-thirds vote required as in the 1956 corn referendum?

A. No, a simple majority will decide.

Q. Where do I vote?

A. At your local community polling place as designated by your County ASC Committee.

Q. What if I Will be out of the area on the day of the referendum?

A. Advance voting by mail is permitted in such cases. Check with the ASC Office.

Q. Where can I get additional information?

A. From your ASC community committee-man; county ASC office, or county agricultural agent of the Extension Service.

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THE CHOICE IS UP TO YOU AS A CORN GROWER—BE SURE TO VOTE